

# 8/4/69 **YOUTHS RANSACK BOOTHS** **Rock fest turns into looting binge**

Youths ransacked merchants' booths at the Atlantic City Pop Festival and took about \$20,000 worth of musical instruments, records and hippie garb, state police reported yesterday.

One man jumped on the stage last night and was forcibly led off.

Officials of the Atlantic City Race Course, the site of the three-day festival which ended last night after totaling 118,000 admissions, said damage to the track itself during the robbery was minimal.

In last night's scuffle, a barechested man leaped onto the stage for attention. He knocked over several microphones before a musician pushed him back. Another person on stage applied a hammerlock to him and shoved him off the dais.

## **GOT BOOED**

Authorities put the man, who was not identified, into a truck for several minutes and then released him. He strode into the crowd swaying his arms and was encircled and booed as he shouted and began to disrobe.

Police intercepted him and led him—to the cheers of the crowd—onto the grassy infield

on the fence lecturing a crowd.

One tightly-knit clan puffed a pipe as police watched with binoculars from a glass-enclosed balcony. The police commented on the activity but chose not to make an arrest.

## **DAMP CROWD**

Rain dampened the crowd last night but the music continued unabated.

Allan Spivak, festival copromoter, said "about a half-dozen youths, obtained entrance into the booth area under the grandstand through a door which had a broken lock.

He said he gave permission to a group to sleep under a steel canopy near a track entrance because of the rain Saturday night and because many others were sleeping on the grassy track perimeter anyway.

These youths, he said, apparently were the ones who gained entrance to the booth section.

The youths were pilfering some of the 50 booths but ran when they saw security police.

Lou Cunningham, track relations director, said

they made at least eight arrests on narcotics charges outside the track.

The largest crowd was Saturday's 50,000. People clumped together on the grounds and in the grandstand.

The first aid station at the track treated 300 young people for ailments ranging from minor cuts to drug trips. Seventy per cent of them had cut feet or splinters.

Atlantic City Hospital reported treating 24 persons for narcotics problems.

Nurses reported thousands of aspirin tablets dispensed at the first aid station during the festival.

Early yesterday, a youth bedded down in a sleeping bag was run over by a companion who decided to move a car he was camping in. The

youth received only minor injuries, police said.

Yesterday afternoon, strings of toilet paper tossed by the audience decorated the huge aluminum stage.

A system of tacking notes on the pop festival office wall gave the youths a way to communicate with others either if they had lost contact with their comrades or if they had recently acquired a loss of hearing.

The urge to go for a swim overcame a large contingent Saturday afternoon and they broke for the infield lagoon. Some stripped entirely for the occasion.

The swans kept their distance at the far end of the long lagoon. The race track water truck, which had been used to control the crowd Saturday became a mobile shower yesterday.